

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/876,443

Examiner

Irakli Kiknadze

Applicant(s)

SELZER ET AL.

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Interview Summary of 09/03/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11-13, 15-25-27, 37, 38 40-42, 44-50, 52-58, 64 and 65.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 May 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 09032004.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the Office action dated February 26, 2004 the Amendment has been received June 7, 2004.

Claims 11, 15-18, 37, 44 and 53-56 have been amended.

Claims 14 and 39 have been canceled.

Claims 57-65 have been newly added.

Claims 11-13, 15-25, 27, 37, 38 and 40-65 are currently pending in this application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James M. Leas (Reg. No. 34, 372) on September 7, 2004.

4. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 19, line 1, " in claim 14 " should read -- in claim 11 --.

Claim 37, line 12, after " mask " add -- h) sensing position of the substrate with a displacement sensor wherein displacement sensor comprises a differential variable reluctance transducer (DVRT) --.

Cancel claim 43.

Claim 45, line 1, " in claim 43 " should read -- in claim 37 --.

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Claim 48, line 1, " in claim 43 " should read -- in claim 37 --.

Claim 49, line 1, " in claim 43 " should read -- in claim 37 --.

Cancel claims 51 and 59-63.

Claim 64, line 1, after " mask " add -- h) sensing position of the substrate with a displacement sensor wherein displacement sensor comprises a differential variable reluctance transducer (DVRT) --.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 11-13, 15-25, 27, 37, 38, 40-42, 44-50, 52-58, 64 and 65 are allowed.

6. With respect to claims 11-13, 15-25, 37, 38, 40-42, 44-50, 52-58, 64 and 65 prior art fails to disclose or make obvious a method of exposing a resist comprising sensing position of a substrate with displacement sensor comprising a differential variable reluctance transducer (DVRT) as claimed.

7. With respect to claim 27 prior art fails to disclose or make obvious a system for exposing a substrate comprising a stepper and an X-ray source, vibration insulation there between as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

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8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ogoh (US Patent 5,001,039) and Rostoker et al. (US Patent 5,666,189) teach methods of manufacturing semiconductor device comprising step of patterning resist and light irradiation apparatus used by the manufacturing method.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Irakli Kiknadze whose telephone number is 571-272-2493. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00- 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on 571-272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Irakli Kiknadze
September 7, 2004

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Craig E Church

Craig E. Church
Primary Examiner